THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the latest large sample survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in the year 1999-2000 (NSS-55th round), the total population living below poverty line is 2602.50 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure and not per capita income as the yard stick to assess a person living below the poverty line. According to the latest large sample survey conducted by NSSO during 1999-2000 (NSS 55th round), people who cannot spend the prescribed per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.327.56 per month in rural area and Rs. 454.11 per capita per month is urban areas are considered as poor. The total number of persons who spent below the prescribed limit of consumption expenditure in the year 1999-2000 were 2602.50 lakhs of which 1932.42 lakhs were living in rural areas and 670.07 lakhs were living in urban areas.

Invention of self heating Can

4593. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an engineer at Allahabad has invented a self heating can or stove which can be used in the absence of cooking gas;

(b) whether Government have approved the newly invented stove and allowed it's sale in the open market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Government is not aware of such an invention.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.